

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A chromoprotein derived from *Cnidopus japonicus* having the following properties:

- (1) the absorption maximum wavelength is 559 nm and the fluorescence maximum wavelength is of 578 nm;
- (2) the molar absorption coefficient is 61,150 at 559 nm;
- (3) the quantum yield is less than 0.01; and
- (4) the pH sensitivity of light-absorbing properties is stable at between pH 4 and pH 10.

2. (Original) A chromoprotein having either one of the following amino acid sequences:

- (a) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- (b) an amino acid sequence comprising a deletion, substitution and/or addition of one or several amino acids with respect to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, and having light-absorbing properties.

3. (Currently Amended) A DNA encoding the protein of claim 1 ~~or 2~~.

4. (Original) A DNA of either one of followings:

- (a) DNA encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and
- (b) DNA encoding an amino acid sequence which comprises a deletion, substitution and/or addition of one or several amino acids with respect to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, and having light-absorbing properties.

5. (Original) A DNA having either one of the following nucleotide sequences:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- (b) a nucleotide sequence comprising a deletion, substitution and/or addition of one or several amino acids with respect to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, and encoding a protein having light-absorbing properties.

6. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector having the DNA of claim 4 ~~or 5~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A transformant having the DNA of claim 4 ~~or 5~~ or a ~~the~~ recombinant vector having the DNA of claim 6.

8. (Currently Amended) A fusion protein composed of the chromoprotein of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ and another protein.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a physiologically active substance, which is characterized in that the FRET (fluorescence resonance energy transfer) method is applied using the chromoprotein of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as an acceptor protein.

10. (Currently Amended) A light-absorbing reagent kit comprising the chromoprotein of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~the a DNA encoding the protein of any of claims 3 to 5, the a recombinant vector having the DNA of claim 6, the a transformant having the DNA or the recombinant vector of claim 7, or the a fusion protein composed of the chromoprotein and another protein of claim 8.~~